Determinants of Increases in Medicare Expenditures for Physicians Services: Technical Review Number 7

By U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 110 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in.In 1990, after a decade of rapid cost growth, Congress made two major changes to the Medicare program in an attempt to control expenditures for physicians services. It implemented a fee schedule and a payment update system for physicians services. The goal of this fee schedule was to set relative payment rates that would reflect the time, effort, and expense of providing each listed service. The goal of the payment update system, called the Volume Performance System (VPS), was to limit increases in physician fees by linking them to historical rates of increase in the volume of physicians services. This system led to high rates of growth in the early 1990s, and was criticized for distorting relative payment levels in its use of different updates for surgery versus primary care payments, for setting unrealistic expenditure targets (because of relying on historical trends and legislated reductions), and for relying on two-year old data to set targets. In 1997, Congress established a new system for determining the annual update for Medicare payment rates for physicians services. This system, known as the Sustainable Growth...

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